

Softball Manager's Guide

You can obtain your schedule by visiting:

www.teamsideline.com/ventura

	<u>Seasons</u>	<u>Nights</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Men's (multiple divisions)	Summer, Fall, Spring	Tuesday, Wednesday	Camino Real Park & VCP
Women's (registration dependent)	Summer, Fall	Wednesday	Camino Real Park & VCP
Coed (multiple divisions)	Summer, Fall, Spring	Tuesday (except in spring), Thursday, & Friday	Camino Real Park & VCP

Welcome to the City of Ventura Adult Slow Pitch Softball League!

- Contact Information:
 - Lauren Chumbley
 - Office: 805-658-4738
 - Email: lchumbley@cityofventura.ca.gov
 - Fax: 805-648-1030
- Check schedules and standings weekly to make sure you have the most up to date information.
- Umpire fees are \$20 per game and due at game time.

Registration Requirements

The City of Ventura requires each manager to complete a team roster and turn it in to the Adult Sports office with entry fee payment in full to be eligible to participate in leagues. Rosters are limited to 15 players and signatures for each player must be obtained prior to the first regular season game.

All players are also required to sign a COVID waiver to be eligible to participate in leagues.

- When registering, use the same team name or list a previous team name to assist with classification

Softball League Format

The City of Ventura softball league utilizes an 8-game league format. Teams will play a guaranteed 8 games. You can obtain your schedule by visiting www.teamsideline.com/ventura. Games are 60 minutes or seven innings, whichever comes first, and utilize a one ball and one strike count.

If your team must forfeit a contest, you must report 24 hours ahead of your scheduled game time. If you fail to contact City of Ventura Adult Sports staff 24 hours in advance, the full official's fees (\$40) will be due in full, prior to your next scheduled game. Failure to pay this fee may result in a second forfeit, and/or removal from league play. You may call Lauren Chumbley at 805-658-4738, or email lchumbley@cityofventura.ca.gov to confirm your forfeit. Failure to call will result in the forfeiture of the next game, and your team may be dropped from further league play.

Rainouts/Cancellations

If rain occurs during the day of your game, check www.teamsideline.com/ventura on your game day to determine if games will be played. Final decisions about rain delays will be made before 3p. Rainout games are made up at the end of the regular season.

Official Softball Rules

Softball rules and conditions will follow the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) Rulebook with the following exceptions:

- All game related fees must be paid before the start of each game. The game will not start until fees have been paid
- While Little League fences are up at Camino Real Park, any ball hit over the fence or through the opening before it hits the ground will be considered an automatic out. If a player continues to hit balls over or through the fence, he/she may be ejected from the game at the discretion of staff or officials
- Teams should be ready to check in 15 minutes before game time. Infield practice may be refused if games are running behind. Game time is forfeit time. Games tied at the end of seven innings, or one hour of play will be declared a tie and considered final
- Teams may play a game with as few as 8 players (with no more than five men on the field for Coed). Only a female can be inside the coed line (180' arc) when a female is at bat. If at game time, a team does not have enough players, teams may start the game with the home team becoming the visiting team and batting first. If 8 players have not arrived before the bottom half of the inning, the game will be forfeited
- If an opposing team has supplied a courtesy catcher, the catcher will be supplied for the remainder of the game, or until another player arrives. Teams are not required to supply a courtesy catcher
- Teams playing with illegal players will forfeit games. All challenges about player eligibility must be made to the umpire during the game, or else the result of the game will stand
- Managers are responsible for writing down the players who are present for each game on the blue score card. If a player arrives late, the manager is responsible for asking for the score card back and adding the player
- *No amplified music shall be played by either team during the game, nor shall anyone wear earphones during the game*
- Mercy rule
 - A game will end when one team is ahead by twenty (20) runs after four (4) innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead), fifteen (15) runs after five (5) innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) or twelve (12) runs after six (6) innings (5 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). Complete innings must be played unless the home team attains the designated lead in its half of the inning. When the visiting team achieves the designated lead in the top half of the inning, the home team must have their opportunity to bat in the bottom of the inning
- No drinking of alcohol is allowed during the game or at City of Ventura parks. If any member of your team is caught drinking, your team will automatically forfeit your game. Game fees will not be returned to teams who forfeit games for breaking this policy. No coolers are allowed near playing fields

Code of Conduct

The following Code of Conduct for the City of Ventura Softball leagues shall immediately be in effect. The City reserves the right to interpret any rule in accordance with the philosophy and goals of the Adult Sports Program and the City of Ventura. **It is the responsibility of the team manager to enforce and abide by the following Code of Conduct. Team managers shall be responsible for the conduct of their players and fans associated with their team, before, during and after their game.**

Depending on the severity, frequency and circumstances related to an infraction, a sequence of progressive disciplinary action may be used at the discretion of the City of Ventura Adult Sports Staff. **It should be noted that any step(s) in the discipline process might be passed or eliminated in applying disciplinary action.** The progressive discipline process may progress as follows: 1) warning to team manager or player, 2) team member or fan removed, 3) player or team suspended from the league. Rules of the game and any misconduct violations relating to the field of play shall be enforced by the on-site umpire.

Any player committing a Major Infraction listed below will immediately be ejected from the game and will not be allowed to play or attend games for (1) calendar week and will be required to leave the field of play. An email will be sent to the manager of the team, notifying them of the suspension and the date the suspended player may return to league. Progressive disciplinary action may be taken with repeat offenders.

Major Infractions

- **Physical Contact with Official, Player, Staff, or Fan:** no player shall at any time lay a hand on, push, strike, or threaten to strike an official, staff, fan, or other player. Players making physical contact with another person in an aggressive manner will be suspended from all league play. Major infraction involving physical contact usually result in year-long suspensions.
- **Verbal Abuse/Objectionable Demonstrations:** no players shall verbally abuse or threaten any staff, official, fan, or other player for any reason. Players shall not make objectionable demonstrations by throwing bats, gloves, or other equipment in a forceful manner, or use any obscene gestures towards another person.
- **Unnecessary Rough Play:** no player shall use unnecessarily rough tactics or overly physical play during the game against any other player.
- **Consuming illicit substances:** the consumption of any illicit substance in City of Ventura parks is NOT permitted and is punishable by law. The City of Ventura strictly bans the consumption of illicit substances during games. Teams with any player(s) consuming illicit substances will forfeit the game and will not have game fees returned to them.

Appeal Process

A player shall have the right to appeal a suspension greater than one week by notifying the City of Ventura Adult Sports Supervisor in writing within 3 days of the suspension. City staff will review the appeal within 3 days of receipt of the written appeal. The player will remain suspended until the appeal has been reviewed.

City of Ventura Official Bat Policy

Bats shall be made from wood or aluminum. No 100% composite bats will be used in City of Ventura leagues. Bat handles may be composite; however, barrels may only contain aluminum or alloy. The outer surface of non-wood bats must be aluminum only. Bats must be designed for slow pitch softball use only and newer bats must have a manufacturer's label along with an "Official Softball/ASA" stamp. Multi-walled softball bats are permitted (aluminum only); however, bats must not exceed the 1.20 BPF rating or exceed the 98mph limit.

- No fiber wrapped or non-aluminum coated bats
- No wood or aluminum fungo bats
- No baseball, senior softball, or fast pitch bats

City of Ventura officials have the authority to remove any bat that he/she suspects has been altered in any way. This judgement is left entirely to the discretion of the umpire in any given game. The game shall be immediately forfeited by any team whose player takes position in the batter's box with any bat that has been previously removed by the umpire in accordance with this rule.

Older bats that have worn labels from long time usage will be left to the discretion of the game officials.

Classification Guidelines

The following guidelines have been developed to assist staff in placing teams in correct leagues. Teams may not have more than 2 players on their roster that are currently playing in a higher classified league or tournament.

A/B Classification: Teams claiming this classification ranges from new teams who have little experience playing organized softball or have some experienced players but have no tournament players on their rosters. These leagues often consist of company teams without experienced players or many of these teams have players with less than 2 years of experience playing organized softball or have many older players on the team.

C/D Classification: Teams claiming this classification have several experienced players and may have some tournament players on their rosters. Many of these teams have more than 2 years of experience playing organized softball or have many veteran players on the team.

E Classification: Teams claiming this classification have players with more than 4 years of experience who may play multiple nights a week. These teams may have players with tournament experience.

Note: The City of Ventura has the right to place teams in the league that suits the skill level of the players on the roster. Teams that do not have a completed roster may be placed in a higher division. The City of Ventura has the right to move teams from one league to another after the season begins, in an attempt to ensure leagues are competitively balanced.

Player Adds & Drops

Completed rosters are due at the time of registration. No additional add/drops will be allowed after 5:00pm of the second scheduled league game. If a team drops below 12 players, a manager may appeal to the league office to add a player(s) with the following process:

- Call the Adult Sports Office at 805-658-4738 and/or send an email to the Adult Sports Office and state your name, team name, name of player to be added, and the reason for the addition.
- Go to www.teamsideline.com/ventura and download an Add/Drop Form and return it to the league office at least 24 hours before the date the added player is scheduled to play. Fax this to 805-648-1030 or email to lchumbley@cityofventura.ca.gov
- The league office will verify the added player with a phone call or email prior to the first game the added player is expected to play.

Any dropped player is not eligible to play on the same team or another team in the same league but may play on another team in a different league

Tie-Breaker Procedures:

1. **Winning percentage**
2. **Head-to-head differential**
3. **Head to group differential**
4. **Total runs differential**
5. **Total runs against**
6. **Lowest number of forfeits**
7. **Coin toss**

League Standings/Playoffs/Awards

League standings will be updated weekly on Team Sideline. The top four teams in each division will advance to the playoffs the week after the regular season. Playoff standings will be updated after the completion of the regular season. The playoffs will be a single elimination bracket, completed in one night. Teams ranked two and three will play the first game. Teams ranked first and fourth will play the second game. The winners of each of the first two games will play the championship game in the final time slot of the night.

All playoff games will 60 minutes or seven innings, except for the championship game which will be played to 70 minutes, or seven innings, whichever comes first.

There will be prizes awarded to the winner of the championship game in each division.